



**Federal Aviation
Administration**



HURRICANE AWARENESS
DIGITAL TOOLKIT

At the Federal Aviation Administration, we prepare year-round for natural disasters to sustain air navigation systems and maintain airspace safety. The FAA's mission is to protect the National Airspace System (NAS) and ensure that anyone operating in and around a natural disaster area is able to do so safely.

Immediately before and after a hurricane, aerial emergency response crews may use manned aircraft or drones to support their mission with proper authorization.

If you are a pilot (of manned or unmanned aircraft) or a traveling member of the public, please follow our safety tips:



Before A Hurricane

General Public

Check with your airline in case your flight is cancelled or rerouted. The FAA does not cancel flights.

Drone Pilots

First responders and other organizations with an established drone program, or Part 107 remote pilots that will be flying drones in support of disaster relief missions, are advised to apply for waivers or certificate of waiver or authorizations (COA's) that they need ahead of time.

General Aviation

Be sure to monitor weather and Notices To Airmen (NOTAMs) to best plan for your flight.



During A Hurricane

General Public

Flights are often rerouted, and can affect flights around the entire country, and airports may close. If you are planning to fly, check the status of your flight with your airline carrier.



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Know the Rules:

Pilots (Drones & General Aviation)

The FAA often implements Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFRs) around areas affected by a hurricane to protect ongoing aerial emergency response efforts. Even if a TFR is not in place, NOTAMs may be issued providing pilots with guidance about hazardous conditions that can affect your flight.

It's essential that pilots maintain awareness of changes to TFRs and NOTAMs in and around the affected areas.

GA pilots: You can receive real-time flight updates through your electronic flight planning tools (EFP) or use VFR Flight Following. If a TFR is not in place, follow normal Air Traffic Control rules or call the tower ahead of your flight.

Drone pilots: Even if a TFR is not in place, and you hold an authorization to fly, you should stay away from disaster response operations. Additionally, be sure to check the weather conditions before your flight.



If a TFR is issued, All pilots must be authorized to fly in impacted areas.

First responders and other organizations responding to hurricanes, natural disasters, or other emergency situations are eligible to provide disaster relief with expedited approval through the Special Governmental Interest (SGI) process.

To apply through the SGI process, you must be an existing Part 107 Pilot with a current Remote Pilot Certificate OR have an existing Certificate of Authorization (COA).

To submit a waiver through this process, fill out the *Emergency Operation Request Form* and send it to the FAA's System Operations Support Center (SOSC) at 9-ator-hq-sosc@faa.gov.

The SGI process is outlined in *FAA Order JO 7200.23A*.



All Pilots: If A TFR Is Issued, You Must Follow the Guidance in the NOTAM

In addition to following NOTAMs and TFRs, *please use these tips for flying disaster relief missions.*

- Operate with two pilots
- Operate your aircraft with traffic avoidance systems
- Do not depend on fuel in disaster impact areas
- Prepare for potential mechanical problems ahead of your mission
- Prepare for uncertain ground circumstances
- Avoid unnecessary flights and recognize the end of your mission



Before You Fly

- Check your NOTAMs & TFRs.
- Never interfere with emergency response activities, including aircraft operations.
- Maintain increased awareness for low altitude storm response flight activity if you are flying or navigating in the impact area.

The FAA's **ROLE**

Stay Up-To-Date: : The FAA continually publishes *pilot-safety educational information* and aggressively promotes the latest information through our social media platforms.

- We work closely with our safety partners to get the word out about the dangers of flying near hurricanes and other natural disasters. Our partners include the *National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)*, the *National Weather Service (NWS)*, *The Weather Channel*, the *Aircraft Owners & Pilots Association (AOPA)*, and *Know Before You Fly*.
- The FAA can take enforcement action against any pilot, manned or unmanned, who interfere with disaster relief and/or rescue operations.



Q & A

Q: When a TFR is in effect, am I not allowed to take off, fly or land in the TFR zone?

A: Correct. No one is allowed to operate in a TFR without specific authorization. The TFR and/or NOTAM will describe the location, conditions, and point of contact to obtain approval to fly inside a particular TFR. *TFRs are published on the FAA's website.*

Q: What should I do if I see someone operating a drone near an active hurricane?

A: Report it immediately to local law enforcement and the nearest *FAA Flight Standards District Office* with as much information as possible.

Q: I'm a member of the media and I want to get authorization to fly a drone near a hurricane. What can I do?

A: Media should avoid flying near active hurricanes, and never interfere with aviation or disaster relief operations. To qualify for the *special approval process*, the operation(s) must directly support a response, relief, or recovery activity benefiting a critical public good.

You must be an existing Part 107 Remote Pilot, and have the support of the on-scene commander on the ground before you submit your application. Upon approval, you must work with the on-scene commander or authority on-the-ground at all times.



SHAREABLE CONTENT

• FAA SOCIAL MEDIA MESSAGES



• National Hurricane Center NOAA: www.nhc.noaa.gov

• [Webinar] How to Fly Your Drone During an Emergency: <https://youtu.be/KPD9hpxrAAM>

• Federal Disaster Assistance (FEMA): 1-800-621-FEMA (3362); TTY 1-800-426-7585



Resources

NOAA: www.noaa.gov

NWS: www.weather.gov

Know Before You Fly: www.knowbeforeyoufly.org

Emergency Operation Request Form (SGI process):
<http://bit.ly/SGIprocess>

Temporary Flight Restrictions:
tfr.faa.gov/tfr2/list.html

Flight Service weather briefs, flight planning & more:
www.1800wxbrief.com/Website/#/